

August 7, 1998

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PSC DENIES THREE RIVERS DISPOSAL'S

GARBAGE HAULING APPLICATION

Three Rivers Disposal of Bozeman will not begin garbage hauling service in Harlowton, but Sanitation, Inc., of Lewistown will as a result of decisions made recently by the Public Service Commission.

In an order issued August 4, the PSC denied the application of Three Rivers to provide garbage hauling service in Wheatland and Meagher counties, while in a separate case decided in July, Sanitation, Inc.'s, request to expand its service to Harlowton was approved. Sanitation, Inc., will compete for customers with Mr. "M" Disposal.

Public Service Commissioner and hearings examiner Bob Anderson concluded that Three Rivers was fit, willing and able to provide the garbage service in the two counties, but the company had not proven that there is a public need for its proposed service that the existing garbage hauler, Mr. "M" Disposal, is not already meeting. Mr. "M" has recently been sold to Griffin-Phoenix of Billings, which is doing business as Eagle Services.

In a hearing in Harlowton in February, no witnesses appeared in support of Three Rivers. There were witnesses in support of Three Rivers' application at a hearing in White Sulphur Springs on February 20. Several witnesses testified to the rude customer relations of Mr. "M." However, Anderson found that Mr. "M" is providing adequate service.

The January hearing in Harlowton on the Sanitation, Inc., application drew a dozen Harlowton residents who testified in support of Sanitation, Inc. because of their dissatisfaction with Mr. "M"'s service. The PSC concluded Sanitation, Inc., had demonstrated a public demand for its service and that approving its application would encourage reasonable rates and considerate service by the competing garbage haulers in Harlowton.

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